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Mr. Towne's Platform.

The Hon. CHARLES ARNETTE TOWNE, whose Democracy is by Silver Republicanism out of Republicanism, has written a platform for the St. Louis convention. Any sketch of this sort should be received kindly, but Mr. Towne's proposal that the Democratic party guarantee ultimate Statehood or independence to "colonies or dependencies" of the United States seems decidedly premature. He speaks of the "anomalous relation" of such dependencies to the Government. The "relation" of Alaska is "anomalous," but nobody is excited about it. The Democrats have tried "reasserting the verity of the Declaration of Independence," as Mr. Towne says. The less they have to say about that smashed scarecrow of "imperialism," the better for them. "Independence" for the Philippines is out of the question, for the present at any rate. As for "ultimate" Statehood, that is too far off. Americans are able to wait for the ultimate. The immediate is their business.

What principles marked "immediate" has Mr. Towne? Revision of the tariff on a revenue basis. All right, if the Democratic protectionists are not too numerous. "Economy in public expenditures, honesty in administration." Ancient and fishlike; every party is for economy and honesty, on paper.

every form of special privilege and monopoly existing either by virtue, or laws, for example?

Declaration, Mr. Towne proceeds to reassert and repair the Constitution: ">We should pledge ourselves to respect the

Emitations of the Constitution and to restore the coordinate dignity of the Congress in our system." We should declare in favor of Constitutional amendments authorising the direct election of United States Senators and the enactment of an income tax."

Respect the limitations of the Constitution by changing it. "Restore the coordinate dignity of the Congress "whatever that means-by making the Senate a six-year House. Mr. Towns wants to "restore the action of the Federal Government to the principles of WASHINGTON and JEFFERSON," which were not precisely the same, we believe. At any rate, WASHINGTON and JEFFERson were for representative government according to the Constitution, a a bill of rights, the following deserve form not direct and popular enough for Mr. TOWNE.

It would seem a little more Democratio to propose that the several States should Republic have the right to assemble levy an income tax, if they choose, but pacifically and without arms, and to able that he will be appointed, composite.

Surely there must be plenty of Democrats who are willing to stick to the Constitution instead of trying to plaster it with amendments.

The Name American.

In THE SUN of March 18 Mr. JAMES P. MURRAY of Toronto reported a persistent objection on the part of Canadians to the appropriation by citizens of the United States of the name "American." He declares that there are other "Americans" who have an equal right to the title.

There are, and no one objects to their use of it. If Mr. MURRAY of Canada family within the fourth grade of conand Senor Gonzalez of Chile and Senor sanguinity or the second of affinity. RODRIGUEZ of Mexico, or all of them and all of their compatriots, see fit to call themselves Americans, no power on The profession of all religions is declared earth can prevent their doing so. As far as the people of the United States are concerned, the title is quite as much conferred upon them by others as it is appropriated by themselves.

But Mr. MURRAY is wrong. He should pity us for our limitation rather than Republic, and the law will set aside for knows the mental wear and tear ex- foundation of a Conciliatory Seminary, perienced by thousands of our people, of this generation and of earlier generations, in their efforts to find an acceptable substitute. No other term seems open to us. In a declaration of his nationality a good citizen naturally wants a little opportunity for chest expansion. What possible sign of pride can a man display in announcing himself as a Statesite, a Statesese, a Statesian, or a Stater? We are even debarred by the unwritten that edifices dedicated to whatsoever laws of good taste from calling ourselves

Mr. MURRAY should reflect upon his blessings instead of scorning others for that which is more a misfortune than a fault. In their special tribulation the people of this country stand almost alone. Even the "pore benighted 'eathen" may call himself a Sudanese. We are more awkwardly placed than the Argentinians or the Mesopotamians. Mr. MURRAY is infinitely better off than we are. He can hold his head well up, expand his chest, and roll out a prideful. sonorous declaration that heis a Canadian. That is a title which is specific, distinctive and eminently honorable. It is a title of which any man may be proud, and which will describe him definitely

in the minds of men the world over. The people of Europe have no wish to be known simply as Europeans. They are proud to be known as Germans, Frenchmen, Spaniards, Swedes, Belgians, Swiss, Russians, and all the rest of the list. But we, from lack of a suitable alternative, must do the best we can with that which is at our disposal, parade under a general title, and run the risk of being asked by foreigners from what

part of America we come. If Canada would annex us we could be signature of all the Secretaries, and must

we could be Mexicans. If Cuba would take us into her hegemony we could be Cubans. We do not want to call ourselves Alaskans, and the term Yankee is not suitable for all occasions. In sheer helplessness we call ourselves "Americans," but deny no other inhabiright to do the same-if he otherwise body denominated the National Assembehaves himself.

The Panama Constitution.

We have before us the text of the Constitution recently adopted, and now operative, in the State of Panama. The document is of obvious interest to Americans, inasmuch as for a long time to come we are likely to maintain intimate relations with the youngest of Latin-American Commonwealths.

It is evident that in framing the preamble the authors of this latest formulation of an organic law had before their eyes the Constitution of the United States. We subjoin the preamble, italicizing the phrases which manifestly have been borrowed:

"We, the Representatives of the people of Panama, assembled in a national convention, with the object of constituting a Nation, of maintaining order, establishing justice, promoting the general welfare, and securing the benefits of liberty for us, for our posterfly and for all the nationalities of the world residing on Panama soil, invoking the protects of God, order, decree and establish for the Panama nation the following Constitution."

In our own Federal organic law, there is no counterpart to the phrase "invoking the protection of GoD," nor to the references to a particular religion which, as we shall presently point out, occur in the Constitution of Panama.

The citizens of the new Republic, who, by the way, are constitutionally styled Panamenians, comprise, first, all those who have been, or may be, born in the territory of Panama, irrespective of the nationality of their parents; secondly, the children of Panama parentage born in another country, in the event of their coming to reside in the Republic, and expressing a desire to become Panamenians; thirdly, foreigners of more than ten years' residence in the terri-Mr. TOWNE would declare "against | tory of the Republic, who, professing some science, art or industry, or possessing some landed property or capital by permission, of the laws." The patent in circulation, shall declare before the Panama municipality in which they Having reasserted the verity of the reside a desire to become naturalized Panameñians. Only six years residence and have a family residing in Panama, and only three years if the wife is a Panamenian. Also eligible to citizenship are those Colombians who, having taken part in achieving the independence of the Republic of Panama, shall have declared the intention of becoming citizens; and those who shall make such a declaration before the municipal council of the district in which they reside.

Passing over other articles relating to citizenship, we note that slavery is prohibited in Panama. Any person previously occupying the status of a slave becomes free the moment he or she sets

foot in the territory of the Republic. Among the stipulations that collectively constitute what we should term especial attention: For instance, all Panamenians and foreigners are equal before the law. All the inhabitants of the associate themselves for the promotion of any lawful object. Again, no one can be judged or sentenced but by competent judges and tribunals, and by them in accordance with the laws covering the crime committed and in the manner by law established. Once more, in no case can there be detention, imprisonment or arrest for debts, or purely civil obligations, except for the purpose of enforcing a "judicial embargo," or, in other words, of punishing contempt of court. We observe, lastly, that no one is obliged to give evidence in a criminal proceeding against himself or herself. husband against wife, wife against husband, or against any member of the

We pass to the articles which define the relation of the civil power to religion. free, as also any form of worship, without further limitation than the exaction of respect for Christian morals and public order. It is, however, recognized that "the Catholic religion is the religion of the majority of the inhabitants of the blame us for presumption. Heaven only that religion an auxiliary fund for the and for missionaries to the native tribes. The Congress, however, will not be permitted to prohibit bequests or legacies made to Catholic institutions or for purposes of religious education. Article 34 provides that the destination of testamentary and other donations, made for religious purposes or public instruction, cannot be varied or modified by the Legislature. We should further point out worship, Conciliatory Seminaries and episcopal or curate dwellings, cannot be taxed, and can only be occupied by the State in cases of urgent public necessity. It is, on the other hand, provided that no minister of a religious creed shall occupy a public, civil or military office, unless the office be identified with the Church

> In an article dealing with the freedom of the press we read that every person can freely express his or her thought by word of mouth or writing, through the press or by any other means, without being subjected to censure, so long as the utterance refers to official acts of public functionaries. Legal responsibilities will attach, however, when, by one of these means, the honor of individuals is brought into question. This article, together with other articles constituting a bill of rights, can be temporarily suspended through all or part of the Republic when, in the case of foreign war or internal disturbance, the safety of the State shall seem to demand it. But the suspension must be decreed by the National Assembly, if it is in session; otherwise, and if the danger is imminent, by the President of the Republic, though

or public instruction.

Canadians. If Mexico would annex us forthwith convoke the National Assemmay be submitted thereto.

kingdom of Greece, and as our Congress was under the Articles of Confederation. tant of the Western Hemisphere the The legislative power is exercised by a bly, elected by all male citizens over 21 years of age, and composed of as many Deputies as correspond to the electoral districts, the ratio being one Deputy to each 10,000 inhabitants, and one more for a residue not less than five thousand. The Deputies are elected for four years. The National Assembly may be convoked by the President of the Republic at any time in extraordinary session, but its ordinary session begins, without the necessity of convocation, on the 1st day of September in every alternate year. The relation of the Legislature to the Executive cannot be assigned distinctly either to the "presidential" or to the "parliamentary" type of government. The President, who is chosen by the people for four years, but is not eligible for the term succeeding his own, can appoint or remove the Secretaries of State, but no other act of his is valid until it has been approved and made known by a Secretary of State, who by such approval becomes responsible therefor. The Secretaries of Sate are the sole organs of communication between the Executive power and the National Assembly. Each of them is bound to submit to the Legislature soon after the beginning of each session a report of the affairs belonging to his department; he can propose projects of law, and take part in the debates. The inevitable effect of such provisions will be to make the Cabinet Ministers dependent on the good will of the Legislature.

A qualified veto power is vested in the Executive. That is to say, a bill, if vetoed, must be returned to the National Assembly within a definite time, and with the objections specified, and, except when these are based on alleged unconstitutionality, the veto may be overruled by two-thirds of the Deputies present, provided they constitute a quorum. If, however, the question of constitutionality shall be raised by the Executive, the proposed law must be submitted to the Supreme Court of Justice, which, within six days, must say whether the project is constitutional. is required if such persons are married An affirmative decision by the court makes it obligatory on the Executive to sanction and promulgate the law. This provision shows that in the Republic of Panama, as in the United States. the Federal Judiciary is not a subordinate, but a cognate department of government, the supreme expounder of

the organic law. As regards the extent to which local self-rule is authorized, the Government established by the Panama Constitution is less centralized than that which has prevailed in Colombia since 1888, but it is much more centralized than that to which we are accustomed in the United States. The seven provinces into which the Isthmian territory is divided do not elect their respective Governors. On the contrary, each Governor is appointed by the President of the Republic. It is left for the National Assembly to determine how, in each municipal district, the Mayor shall be named. It is probby the President of the Republic or by the provincial Governor. It must, at the same time, be recognized that the municipal districts will have a much larger measure of autonomy than they have enjoyed under the Bogota Government during the last eighteen years, for they will have the power of electing municipal councils which will control the local administration.

We come to the machinery for constitutional emendation. The Panama organic law can be changed by an act of the National Assembly, provided this act, when resubmitted by the Executive at the next ordinary session, shall be approved by two-thirds of the Legislature.

We observe, finally, that the tutelary relation of the United States to the new Commonwealth is recognized and defined in an article providing that "the Government of the United States of America may intervene in any part of the Republic of Panama for the purpose of establishing the public peace and constitutional order, in the event of the same having been disturbed; in case, by virtue of a public treaty, that nation [the United States] assumes, or shall have assumed, the obligation to guarantee the independence and sovereignty of the Republic."

Women's Clubs.

We spoke the other day of a project for the building of a clubhouse in Madison avenue, for women of fashionable society especially, as an indication of the conservative women have entered during the last generation. Another project announced yesterday is much more directly indicative of that development.

It is a scheme for obtaining a large permanent home and headquarters for the Federated Women's Clubs of New York. These are not women of fashion distinctively, but rather women who are interested in the general feminine "emancipation" of this period, and are wholly apart from the purely social aims of the women of fashion who for their own convenience and delectation have undertaken to build the Madison avenue clubhouse, and who resent, not unnaturally, the implication that they have any special or general sympathy with what is known as the Woman's Rights move-

ment. A General Federation of Women's Clubs, incorporated in 1902, is composed of hundreds of these associations and has a representative in the Club Woman, the very handsome magazine of which we have before spoken. The first of these clubs, the Sorosis, was organized in New York so long ago as 1868. Auxiliary to the General Federation are many State federations of women's clubs, and the project for buying an im- by men in many trades-men, oftenin this case the decree must bear the posing clubhouse as their centre, to times, of a distinctively religious educa-

bly in order that the grounds for the sus- it is proposed to purchase is of so large pension of certain constitutional rights | a price, half a million dollars, that this club movement must now be on a large The Legislature of the Republic of scale and very successful. If its project Panama is unicameral, as is that of the is carried out these affiliated associations will have a clubhouse which in size and appointments will compare favorably with the most important of the men's

clubs in town. It is a remarkable undertaking and demonstrates anew the great progress made by women since the period, about fifty years ago, when amid derision and gloomy predictions a few women started the movement to escape from the restraints of the traditional domestic seclusion to which feminine activities were then confined. The ridicule amid which their early struggles were made has been succeeded by serious consideration of the right, the propriety and the advantage of women organizing themselves into associations similar in character to those established for centuries by men. It is a marvellous change in public sentiment, and how completely revolutionary it is only those can understand whose memory goes back to the time when first Woman's Rights found expression in a few daring souls.

Rifle Practice for the Militia. The days when every American man and boy was a woodsman and a good rifle shot are gone. Most of the citizens on whom the nation must rely in time of war never saw the army rifle, and know nothing about its use. Even the ability to handle a shotgun does not make a man a rifle shot, and when a call is made for volunteers for the army, most of those who respond must be taught the very A B C of caring for their arms. The National Rifle Association is trying to improve this condition of affairs by organizing rifle clubs throughout the country under Government patronage, and in order to carry out its plans it has asked Congress to authorize the War Department to lend rifles, under bond, to such organizations, and to sell am-

munition to them at cost price. President ROOSEVELT, himself a competent rifle shot, is heartily in favor of be organized under the regulations prepared by the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice, and the records of their members would be preserved in the War Department. The club members qualifying as marksmen "National Marksmans Reserve." and this reserve would be a second line of defence for the nation. Its members would be preferred for enlistment over men untrained in rifle practice, and it would perform a valuable service in imparting a proper education in firearms to the civilians upon whom the Government must rely in the event of war.

The interests of the Government are protected completely in the measures now pending in Congress. These bills are approved by Secretary TAFT, the General Staff and the National Rifle Association, besides the President, who would like to see a rifle club in every county in the country turning out crack shots every year. If enacted their effect on the Republic's soldiers in the raw would be excellent.

The Strike of the Choir Boys.

An Episcopal clergyman, in a lette we print to-day, finds in the recent strike for more pay by choir boys at the Church of the Heavenly Rest an evidence of a decline of religious faith in this country and also of the baleful effect of "an absolutely non-religious system of education."

We cannot see that the grasping spirit of these mischievous boys affords any such evidence. It is rather a demonstration of the spread of the spirit of trade unionism, or of combination among wage earners to force employers to give them more pay. A strike by choir boys offends our clerical correspondent's "true sense of proprieties in religion," and seems to him only "an impertinence." But, after all, the offence, if offence there be, was not in the boys' demanding more pay, but in their getting any pay at all for assisting as "little ministers of the sanctuary.

This raises the whole question, and the old question, if anybody serving religion should be paid, whether he is a "little" or a great minister. That the laborer in the field of religion is worthy of his hire was a principle laid down by Jesus in His admonitions to the seventy disciples appointed by Him and sent, "two and two," "into every city and place whither He himself should come." It does not offend against the clerical "sense of proprieties in religion" that ministers in churches are paid professional salaries and that the maintenance of religious worship generally involves the expenditure of money among those directing it. Besides the minister, the choir is usually paid for its services, larger "sphere" into which even the most oftentimes a very large sum, and the organist, the sexton and other necessary assistants are also paid, so that the cost of keeping up a considerable house of worship is large in the aggregate. At all churches pews are rented, sometimes at very high prices, or worshippers are expected to pay for their seats or otherwise contribute toward the maintenance of religion. Appeals for money are made frequently by the pulpit or by printed circulars sent out among the members of the congregation. The temporal side of the church is managed on temporal business principles, and examples are not unknown of special inducements offered to clergymen in the way of salaries in order to secure their pastoral services. Accordingly, the choir boys at the Heavenly Rest who combined to get more pay cannot be accused justly of "impertinence."

Nor does this rather amusing strike afford any evidence of a contemporary decline in religion-no more than would a strike by the sexton of a church for more pay or by the organist, or a request by the pastor that his salary should be raised. It has nothing to do with any system of education," religious or nonreligious, any more than have strikes which we have referred, proceeds from | tion or of a profound religious faith-

the New York federation. The building with the hearty approval of priests and ministers.

As to choir boys, it is a very grave question whether their professional familiarity with the details, the incidents and exterior symbols of the mysteries of religion does not have a tendency to create some contempt for religion in the boyish mind. Many choir boys have a reputation for misconduct outside of the church which suggests the pertinency of the inquiry. It is apt to be dangerous to a boy's reverence for mysteries to let him behind the scenes to observe the working of the machinery necessary to produce the effect.

Our clerical correspondent's further suggestion that a paid choir magnifies its office and comes to regard itself as the main attraction, instead of simply an adjunct to the religious service, may have something in it; nor is it doubtful that purely congregational singing, which expresses the genuine religious feeling in the attendants, has its advantages. But music, and music which satisfies a high professional standard, is a necessary element in an impressive and imposing religious ceremony. Take away this music from the ceremonies of religion and they become bald, unless in periods of great religious excitement, when the passionate spiritual enthusiasm of the congregation finds thrilling expression in song; and, generally, good music implies the hiring of performers trained to produce it. Even in religious ceremony a theatrical element is neces-

sary to produce the solemn effect desired. Finally, if choir boys are paid it must be expected that they will demand all the paythey think they can get, and if combination in making the demand is possible among them and can seemingly be made effective, it may be assumed that they will use that means of compulsion, more especially as they are expert workers. They can charge what they choose for their services and naturally they will use the need of their special training as a means for getting it, without "impertinence" and without departing from a custom prevalent among all wage earners.

The remedy suggested by our clerical correspondent, that for such paid choirs the plan. If it is carried out clubs would should be substitued "individuals willing to give their services gratuitously for the worship of GoD," is applied already in most country churches, where purely voluntary choirs are the rule; but such choirs are a traditional source of discord. A singer may be full of zeal would be enrolled under the designation in the worship of GoD, yet he may be a poor singer whose false notes destroy for other people the impressiveness of the religious ceremony in which he takes part.

President Eliot at Seventy.

To-day Dr. CHARLES WILLIAM ELIOT. Harvard's "young" President for thirtyfive years, completes his three score years and ten, as vigorous, as progressive, as efficient, as when he first entered upon his office. The longest presidency in the university annals has been also the period of its most active life.

In the new creation of American universities Dr. ELIOT has been a chief agent, as he has been a leader in the metamorphosis in American ideas of education, from the primary school up, that marks the end of the nineteenth century. In material prosperity, in the number and equipment of buildings, in capacity and opportunity for instruction of all kinds, in the expansion of her influence, he has transformed Harvard completely. It is premature to estimate his work, for many years of activity in his office are still before him, we hope.

The whole country will join the Harvard graduates in the address of congratulation they send Dr. ELIOT to-day.

Representative Burron's warning to his Republican associates against extravagance in appropriations is quite unnecessary if, as now seems likely, the Executive Department of the Federal Government is going to take the business and the responsibility out of the hands of the Congress Fifty millions or so in the way of an Ex-

ecutive appropriation for a service pension makes an impressive beginning.

Reciprocity in Statues

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN -Sir: "Touchin" on and appertainin' to" the statue of Fred erick the Great presented by Emperor William, why not accept the same, set it up on nds of our War College, and reciprocate Emperor William's courtesy and evident good feeling by sending him and his people a statue of GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON?

THEODORE FRELINGHUSSEN. CINCINNATI, Ohio, March 18.

A Suggested Exchange With Bome. To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: Would it not be wise for us to ask the German Emperor to give his graven image of Frederick to Rome, and give to give to the Eternal City?

Goethe said things against Rome and her Church: for example: "Rome gives nothing, though she Old Fritz said things against us and our theory of government, even predicting its downfall.

Therefore the exchange I propose.

DENVER, Col., March 16. POSEY S. WILSON.

The United-States-of-American.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIT: Your correspondent J. P. Murray seems to think, as do many other Canadians I have met, that this country and its citizens have no right to the title of "America and Americans." He acknowledges that custom has allowed it, and that should be nation is more jealous of custom than are the English.

But there are others. "The United States of America" is the only nation that has the name inorporated in its title as a nation. It is the oldest nation of the American continent; also, the title is given by the world's unanimous consent (Canadian excepted) the reason for this being that many for eign nations have no knowledge that any other nation exists on this continent, and to the States and America are one and the same. A further reason is that United States and its people have originated and developed a progressive hitherto unknown. This has been called Americ and its originators Americans. Even Canada must admit this to be true, for she has been compelled to send to this country for her railroad president and managers and to pattern after our industrial However much it grieves the Canadians, the title

has been conferred u been conferred upon the citizens of the United tes of America, and it is the wisest thing to make HAZLETON, Pa., March 18.

A. S. LITTLETON.

A Missouri Simile.

From a Speech by the Hon. W. W. Rucher, M. Q. A man who has the hardihood to face his on ituents and plead with them to cleave to the deprotection for the good it has dor or that it may do in carrying blessings into the homes of the masses must have check of such gigantic proportions that a whole buffale robe

wouldn't make side whiskers for him. The Four-Legged Alienists The Terrier-They say we are mad when we simply show a little crossness. amply show a little crossness.

The Collie—Yes, and they have been three hundred years making up their minds about Hambes.

RELIGION AND AUTHORITY.

The View of Another Catholic of Learning and Distinction. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: While your correspondent, Mr. Tobin, has my sympathy in his generous indignation against the Italian truculence expressed in the publication to which he refers. I would address him a few words of friendly expostulation.

He is evidently a very young man in whom the fine enthusiasm of youth chilled by long contact with this very imperfect world. As he is a good Catholic, he surely recognizes that there must be some central authority, if there is a supernatural religion. But if an authority exists, it must exist somewhere, and if it is to regulate so vast a society as the Catholic Church, it must possess a highly complex machinery. the historical identification of the with the Italian race has been the fruitful source of unnumbered woes, along with much good, nobody denies. But would things have been muh better if it had been fixed

somewhere else?
When the Almighty vouchsafed to carry out His designs by human agencies He implicitly ordained that there shall be shortcomings, perversions and failures. Ideals are not realized in this world. It is very natural that Italians should draw from history the conclusion that for the New Dispensation they are the House of Judah from whom the sceptre shall not pass away Americans can easily understand how the inveterate officeholder falls into the belief that the office exists pri-marily for his benefit, and is his by indefeasible right. The aspect in which the great horde of Roman functionaries, who look to the ecclesiastical establishment for a living, regards the administration is expressed in the words which Leo X. is said to have addressed to his brother: "Godiamoci il papato poiche, to his brother: "Godiamoci il papalo poiche, Dio ce l'ha dato" (Since God gave us the Papacy Since the strong arm of the law has en-

forced order, especially in the mountain districts, the opportunities for earning a living under the ecclesiastical administration have become more precious. But the history of the Church gives us the consoling lesson, that when abuses have ripened fully the disease has produced the remedy. The present Pontiff is giving unmistakable signs that he means to follow in the footsteps of several of his illustrious predecessors, like St. Gregory, Gregory VII., Paul IV., and Pius V., who by laying a vigorous axe to the upas tree at home. Mr. Tobin would accelerate the speed of the Divine mill, which, while it grinds exceeding small, seems now to revolve some what sluggishly. Ought he not rather to find a fund of patience in the fact that in our own time the providential march of events has liberated the majesty of Papacy from an gnominous partnership with a petty Italian State. The present exorbitant development of Roman bureaucracy toward an lutism which is swallowing up the rights of every subordinate authority is rapidly creating a worldwide ground-swell which, like all elemental forces, will work its way out. And then --? May he live to see it.

BROOKLYN, March 18.

A Catholic Satisfied With the Government of His Church.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: In you paper of to-day Robert Tobin enters a protest against "the curse of Italianism" in the government of the Catholic Church. He also seems to be troubled because the Roman correspondent of a certain Catholic weekly, in a recent letter, "declares that Americans ment because they are so monstrously con-

are unfit for a share in the Church's government because they are so monstrously conceited." It is just possible that this may not be the true reason why there is only one Cardinal in the United States. We should not, however, regard as an insult the mere unauthorized statement of a Roman correspondent; and it isn't worth while protesting against the fables which come from Rome to some of our Catholic weeklies.

If it be deemed desirable that red hats should crown some of our ecclesiastics in this country, we of the laity are content to allow the Archbishops and the Bishops to bring the matter to the attention of the authorities of Rome. The Church in America will receive all the rights, and privileges, and honors, to which she is entitled, if the spiritual rulers here go about it in the right way.

I have a sublime faith in the sagacity and far-sightedness of the men who govern the Church from Rome; and I am unwavering in my belief that, all in good time, the heads of the Church from Rome; and I am unwavering in the Church from Rome; and I am unwavering in the Church from Rome; and I am unwavering in my belief that, all in good time, the heads of the Church from Rome; and I am unwavering in the Church government, I cannot imagine why it should exasperate a single member of the laity.

NEWARK, March 16.

A Roman Catholic Scholar's Questions.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your paper of last Sunday contains Mr. Goldwin Smith's comments on Sabatier's work entitled "Religions of Authority." confident tone of these comments, I presume that their author will find it easy to give a prompt and satisfactory answer to a few of the many queries which his article suggests: 1 Was there in the time of Jesus, or ever

since, a religion which was not one of authority? And is not the concept of a religion other than one of authority of very recent origin—in fact, one entirely foreign to the mind of the immediate followers of Christ, and to that of His disciples generally down to the present day?

to that of His disciples generally down to the present day?

2. Are there altogether new grounds—such for instance, as to be unknown to the writer of the article "Popedom" in the Encyclopædia Britannica, or to Duchesne (Liber Pontificalis)—to regard the "list of the early Popes" as "mythical?" Is the episcopacy of Clement of Rome, in particular, mythical?

3. Are there not in many Old Testament writings accurate and elevated teachings concerning God and morality—representations, for example, of the God of Israel as the maker and ruler of all things, as holy and just, as requiring of His worshippers chiefly inward righteousness and the practice of the deeds of mercy as punishing sinners in order to bring them to repentance and to a holy life as commanding the love of one's neighbor, of strangers, &c.—with which Christianity can be historically connected, and of which it must be considered the fulfilment, as arfirmed by Christ Himself?

Baltimore, Merch 19.

Suggestion From Our Consul at Venice. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: United States Consul Robert W. Bliss of Italy, writes me as follows:

Our merchants must be made to realize that in order to compete successfully with England and Germany in the European market they out their own agents, not only to solicit orders, but also to study the wants of their customers, the system of credits and other questions which vary coording to the country.

We are a young nation commercially, but the

strides which have brought us well to the fore were taken so rapidly that certain fundamental lessons have been skimmed over, leaving little im-pression. This, to which I refer, is one which will, sooner or later, force itself upon our manufactur-ers, and which they must recognize and meet. The earlier it is done, of course, so much the ac will the attendant benefits be felt, while delay means the loss and difficulties a second course has

These are words of wisdom and deserve the attention of all who are interested in the expansion of American foreign commerce. WALTER J. BALLARD SCHENECTADY, March 18.

Oddities of the Barge Canal Business

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Col. Symons in his appeal to the House Committee for permission to serve on the New York Canal Board, said h expected to remain here in Washington and con expected to remain here in washington and con-tinue his duties in full, giving only his odd moments to the New York canal. How do the people of the State feel about having the odd \$101,-000,000 spent in odd moments? It is too odd! JOHN W. WRIGHT.

WASHINGTON, March 17. The Silence of One Prophet.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Hurrah for the prophets! One of them wrote you from Bro lyn on Feb. 14 that when some tremendous chan ther March 10 or March 11 had occurred, he would write reminding you of his prophecy.

Can't you get a letter of explanation from him?

NEW YORE, March 19.

SEVENTE SON.

The Modern Way.

"Do you think you have written any lines will live;" she asked the famous author.

"Yes," he replied, "I have sent some private and confidential letters to my friends which they will probably publish after my death."

THE CHOIR BOYS STRIKE.

A Discussion of the Question of Church Music by an Episcopal Clergyman.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN -Sir: The account given in to-day's SUN of a strike among the choir boys in the Church of the Heavenly Rest of this city may be regarded by some people as an amusing passing inci-dent. But to any one who has the religious instinct and a true sense of proprieties in religion it is a very pitiable story, and may be taken, not only as an evidence of that decline in religion which many think they see in the Christianity of this country, but also of the effect of an absolutely non-religious system of education Here are a number of boys who have been literally "picked up in the street" for religious purposes, and made little ministers of the sanctuary, for which they seem to have been paid 50 cents a service. But because the collection is small the allow-

But because the collection is small the allowance is cut down to 35 cents, and these youngsters have the impertinence to count the collection, and demand their full pay, on a purely financial basis.

No wonder that a great many clergymen have substituted the young woman, who has usually some sense of reverence, for the boy of the street, who seldom has any. Bishop Huntingdon, the venerable and saintly Bishop of Central New York, about three years ago refused to walk in procession with an irreverent boy choir, and Bishop Burgess of Long Island in a recent pastoral expressed his disapproval of a female surpliced choir. The musical organizations of the Episcopal Church have consequently been placed upon the horns of a dilemma.

But as a matter of fact boy choirs as well as female choirs) are recent innovations. The boy choir came into the Church with the ritualistic revival of Protestantism. It was unknown a century ago, and is never found in a continental Catholic cathedral, and seldom in a continental Catholic cathedral, and seldom.

The boy choir came into the Church with the ritualistic revival of Protestantism. It was unknown a century ago, and is never found in a continental Catholic cathedral, and seldom in Roman Catholic churches As Dean Hook remarks in his Church Dictionary, "the choir is a body of men set apart for the performance of all the services of the church in the most solemn form." And it would seem that if a choir must be paid it would seem that if a choir must be paid it would seem that if a worder are much more impressive in Christian worship than those of either women or boys. And under any circumstances the time would seem to have come for clergymen to make an appeal for individuals willing to give their services gratuitously for the worship of God.

A distinguished Bishop said to me a few days ago. "I believe we are singing our people out of church." The ornate singing in most of our churches is excessively wearisome. To mutely stand during the singing of an elaborate Te Deum is exceedingly trying to flesh and blood. The demand it altogether contrary to the idea of worship. The modern choir master is strictly a "professional," and believes in his heart that he and his choir are the attraction, and not the priest or the preacher. His importance is only belittled by the attractions of a highly paid soprano or a popular tenor. The whole thing is as contrary to the true principles of religion as the turhing of a church into a theatre. And if we want to know why there appears to be a decline in habits of worship, the solution may perhaps be found in the suggestion of the Bishop already referred to, that "we are singing the people out of church."

St. Patrick's Day.

A CLHEOTMAN.

PINEAPPLE AND DIPHTHERIA. Apparent Success of a Simple Treatment in a Serious Case.

To the Editor of The Sun -Str.: Some years ago I read in The Sun a statement from a physician in which he declared that the juice of the pineapple was efficacious in reliving patients suffering with diphtheria and membraneous croup. On the evening of March 3, answering a ring of my doorbell, I state bordering on the hysterical. Wringing er hands, she said:
"Oh, what shall I do? Annie has the diph-

theria and membraneous croup, and the doctor says she can't live more than an hour, and he won't have anything to do with the case except on consultation with another physician." case except on consultation with another physician."

I did what I could to calm her, telling her to go home, and that I would send my daughter for the other doctor, and, furthermore, that if the little one had but an hour to live it would be no harm to try a simple remedy which I would send her. I despatched my daughter for the doctor and instructed her not to return without a pineapple if one could be procured in the town. Shortly after the father came to inquire where the doctor lived, as he had not yet arrived.

A little later my daughter came with the pineapple, and I immediately sent her around with instructions to cut it up, squeeze out the julce and give it to the sick child. In the meantime the second doctor had arrived, and his opinion was that the case was hope-

and his opinion was that the case was less; an hour or two at most was the li-life. Annie is living and well to-day, and the

Union Hill, N. J., March 18. G. W. E. But never let the pineapple treatment supersede the regular medical attendance.

The Jerusalem Trip of the Presperous Alabama Farmer.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUE-Sie: A vary erious question of paternal responsibility underlies that Alabama farmer's costly trip to Jerusalem. It is the question wheth sophisticated plain people ought to be free to divert valuable wealth upon their own superfluous fancies.

We have rightly adopted the national policy of withholding dangerous moneys from our Indian wards, on the just and benevolent ground that we know better than they what an Indian wisely requires; and on the same general principle, already at work in most of our administered and public charities, we ought, in strict conscience, to restrain the uneducated masses from arbitrary extravaseasonable Mr Depew) are in the nature of trust: and in this higher light we discover a doubtful, treacherously slack forbearance in suffering the public's fundamental interindividuals

Quite a parallel case, in the world of higher letters, was recently brought out by the conservative Saturday Review: The case of Tory and ecclesiastical dignity versus plebelan dissent in the shameless person of a certain "Hebbe," a vulgar Baptist. begin with, it was excellently argued, was no name to be respected by an aristocratio university; and, besides, what use had mere "chapel" tradesmen, tinkers, mechanics, for classical culture? The pagan literatures, of course, were foreordained unto the exclusive righteous edification of an Established State

In a word, we betray our national trust as to the corporately economic disposition of sacred public wealth, if we thus complacently tolerate costly extravagance on the part of accidentally prosperous, isolated individuals RESPONSIBLE CONSCIENCE.

POTTSTOWN, Pa, March 18.

No Golf Playing in the Streets of This Town TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I enclose copy of an ordinance which I found in "Laws and Ord! nances of New Netherlands, 1638-1674," translated by Dr. O'Callaghan, which may be of interest lovers of golf.

F. H. VAN VECHTEN.

Ordinance by the Vice-Director and Commisearies of Fort Orange, passed Dec. 10, 1659.
"The Worsh. Commissary and Commissaries of Fort Orange and Village of Beverwyck, having heard divers complaints from the Burghers of the place against playing at Golf along the streets, Houses, and exposes people to the danger of being wounded and is contrary to the freedom of the Public Streets; Therefore their Worships, wishing to prevent the same, forbid all persons playing Golf in the streets, on pain of forfeiting 25 florins for each person who shall be found doing so."

Enthusiastic Approval of Mr. Justice Harlan's Opinion.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIF: Hurral for Harlan! He goes through the sophistries of the defence "like a red hot cannon ball through a bucket of eggshells." And three cheers for I ds the balance even, and for the Judges who concuri It is not strange that the Democratic brethren stick to State rights, but Holmes is dis appointing. The decision is a new birth of freelom, and the Supreme Court is greater than ever.

AMSTERDAM, N. Y., March 18.

Easter Lilles from Japan.

From Country Life in America.
Our Easter lily, called the "Bermuda" lily, is in reality a native of Japan and China. In 1879 Japan sent us only \$2,000 worth of bulbs for growing them; but in 1895 the exports Jumped to \$40,000; by 1899 they reached \$130,000, and they have been climbing steadily ever since, while the output from Bermuda is supposed to be a quarter less than it was a decade ago. In spite of heavy freights he Japanese bulbs could often be delive for half the price of the Bermuda produc